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automatically expanding the first query to a second query, wherein:
the second query includes the first keyword and the second keyword that is
not present within the first query;
automatically expanding the first query is performed using a keyword list; and
the keyword list includes the first keyword and the second keyword.

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicants' present Application. This present Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed March 11, 2003. Applicants are amending claims 1, 2, 7, 13, 14, 18, and 19. Applicants submit that the amendments do not add new matter to the present Application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action for the present Application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,619,709 ("Caid"). The independent claims are claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. Applicants will address the independent claims first and then will address dependent claims and amendments to the claims.

Each of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 recites a keyword list that includes at least one keyword. One embodiment of the present invention allows a search to be performed using a keyword from a master keyword list that has a limited number of keywords. By limiting the number of keywords in the master keyword list, the search may be performed faster compared to free-form searches.

Caid does not teach using keyword list having keywords. Caid teaches receiving an input and creating context vectors. Once context vectors are established for all components of a record, they are combined to form a summary vector for the record. See column 2 at lines 38-69 of Caid. Unlike the claimed invention, Caid teaches away from using keywords because keywords lack context. See column 1 at lines 31-40 of Caid. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, 7, 13, and 19 are not anticipated by Caid.

Each of claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18, and 20-24 depend from claims 1, 7, 13, or 19. Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18, and 20-24 are allowable at least for the reasons give for their corresponding claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete "data processing system implemented" from the preamble. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to not require a hierarchy. The hierarchy is first introduced within dependent claims 2 and 14 instead of claims 1 and 13, respectively. Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 14 instead of 13 because the hierarchy is in claim 14 and not claim 13. Applicants respectfully submit that such changes do not narrow the scope of the claims and may actually broaden the scope of the claims.

Conclusion

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of currently pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0456 of Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX 1

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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A data-processing system-implemented method of searching for a plurality of information objects comprising:
~~selecting a first keyword from a keyword list, wherein the first keyword is part of receiving a first signal that includes or is used to form a first query, wherein the first query includes a first keyword within a hierarchy;~~
~~automatically expanding the first query to a second query, wherein the second query includes the first keyword and a~~the~~ second keyword, wherein the second key is on the keyword list within the hierarchy;~~
searching the database using the second query; and
finding a first identifier for a first information object that corresponds to the second query, wherein the first information object is part of the plurality of information objects.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the database comprises a plurality of information objects including the first information object and a plurality of ~~the keyword list and a hierarchy of keywords within the keyword list including the first keyword and the second keyword;~~
each information object within the plurality of information objects has at least one related keyword from ~~within~~ the plurality of keyword list; and
the hierarchy defines a relationship among the keywords within the plurality of keywords.
7. (Amended) A data processing system-implemented method of formulating a query comprising:

receiving a first signal that includes or is used to form a first query having a first keyword; and
automatically expanding the first query to a second query, wherein:
a keyword list includes the first keyword and a second keyword;
automatically expanding the first query is performed using the keyword list;
and
the second query includes the first keyword and athe second keyword that is not present within the first query.

13. (Amended) A data processing system readable medium having code embodied therein, the code including instructions executable by a data processing system, wherein the instructions are configured to cause the data processing system to perform a method of searching for a plurality of information objects, wherein the method comprises:
accessing a keyword list comprising keywords, wherein the keywords includes a first keyword and a second keyword;
receiving a first signal that includes or is used to form a first query, wherein the first query includes athe first keywordwithin a hierarchy;
expanding the first query to a second queryusing the keyword list, wherein the second query includes the first keyword and a second keywordwithin the hierarchy;
searching the database using the second query; and
finding a first identifier for a first information object that corresponds to the second query, wherein the first information object is part of the plurality of information objects.

14. (Amended) The data processing system readable medium of claim 13, wherein:
the database comprises a plurality of information objects including the first information object and aplurality ofthe keyword list including the first keyword and the second keyword;
each information object within the plurality of information objects has at least one related keyword fromwithin the plurality ofkeyword list;
thea hierarchy defines a relationship among the keywords within the plurality of keywords.

18. (Amended) The data processing system readable medium of claim 143, wherein the method further comprises:
 - determining an association score between each keyword within the first query and each keyword within the second query based at least in part upon their positions within the hierarchy; and
 - calculating a first relevance score for the first information object, wherein:
 - at least one first relevancy rating is obtained for the first information object;
 - the first relevance score includes a first sum divided by a number of keywords within the second query;
 - the first sum includes a first summation of first products; and
 - for each keyword within the second query, its first product includes a corresponding first association score and a corresponding first relevance rating.
19. (Amended) A data processing system readable medium having code embodied therein, the code including instructions executable by a data processing system, wherein the instructions are configured to cause the data processing system to perform a method of formulating a query, wherein the method comprises:
 - receiving a first signal that includes or is used to form a first query having a first keyword; and
 - automatically expanding the first query to a second query, wherein:
 - the second query includes the first keyword and athe second keyword that is not present within the first query;
 - automatically expanding the first query is performed using a keyword list; and
 - the keyword list includes the first keyword and the second keyword.